

Robert Dinwiddie to George Washington, May 16, 1757, two same date; Orders, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

Instructions to Colonell George Washington Commander in Chief of the Virginia Regiment —

SIR

You are, as soon as you arrive at Fort Loudoun, to inform the Officers that the Assembly having considered the great expence the Virginia Regiment has cost the Country from the Number of Companies it consisted of, and those Companies not half compleat, in proportion to the vast Charge of Officers—It is resolved, for the better Saving of expences establishing a proper Regulation, that The said Regiment shall Consist only of ten Companies, of one hundred Men each—that all the Captains but Seven, be reduced —Those I have thought proper to continue, are Captains Mercer, Waggener, Stewart, Joshua Lewis, Woodward, Spotswood, and Mc.Kenzie—to those Discontinued in the Command of Captains (not from any Particular Misconduct or Demerit imputed) You are to offer Lieutenancys—and Compleat the Number of Lieutenants to Twenty, out of the oldest Subalterns, unless there be some, whose Conduct does not entitle them to the preference—The Ensigns for the Regiment are to consist of ten and to be fill'd up in the same manner, having regard to their Characters and Behaviour —

After the Companys are formed. You are to Occupy the following posts in the following manner, till Your numbers are encreased vizt. —

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at Fort Loudoun 100 Men commanded by Yourself —

at Maidstone 70 Men commanded by Capt. Stewart —

at Edward's 25 Men Do by a Subaltern —

at Pearsalls 45 Men Do. by Capt. Mc.Kenzie —

In the Nighbourhood of Buttermilk Fort 70 Men Comanded by Capt. Waggener

at Dickenson's 70 Men Commanded by Major Lewis

at Vauss's 70 Men Do. by Capt. Woodward

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You are to remain at Winchester, and there use your utmost Diligence and care in forwarding the Public Works, with all possible expedition —

You are to continue all the Assistant Commissaries that are requisite, till such time as The Assembly comes to Some further Resolutions on this head,—and issue your Orders Accordingly —

You are no longer to have concern with, or management of, Indian affairs; The Honble Mr. Atkin is appointed by His Majesty for that extraordinary Service—He is now repairing to Winchester for that purpose, and will I suppose, if he should be obliged to leave it before the Indians return home, appoint some person to transact the Business in his Absence —

So Soon as The Assembly have resolved on the Ways and Means of raising men I shall advise You thereof, that You may be prepared for their reception—and send Officers to meet them if Ordered so to do. —

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Given at Williamsburg this 16th. Day of May 1757 —

ROBT. DINWIDDIE